

HB 627 -- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Mayhew)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

This bill modifies the provisions relating to environmental protection.

WATER PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED BY CERTAIN CITIES (Section 77.150)

Currently, third class cities are authorized to acquire any real and personal property for the purpose of the construction of dams, lake and flood protection systems, bathhouses, therapeutic bathhouses, mineral water vending houses, and for the laying of pipelines for the distribution of mineral waters, provided that the properties are acquired, constructed, and maintained and operated without increasing the indebtedness of the city and are not paid for, maintained, or operated by taxes. The bill repeals the prohibition on the use of indebtedness or taxes for the construction and operation of such projects.

This provision is the same as HB 1534 (2025).

DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Section 260.003)

The bill requires that before the Department of Natural Resources issues or renews any permit, license, or grant of authority, the local jurisdiction must verify that the person and activity, to which any preliminary or final application was first received by the Department, is in compliance with all applicable local rules and ordinances.

The Department may not deny any preliminary or final application under this provision based on a local code, ordinance, or order if the local code, ordinance, or order was enacted following the filing of the application.

This provision is the same as SB 269 (2025).

NONNATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS SPECIES (Section 263.070)

The bill requires that all nurseries and nursery dealers in the State submit to the Department of Agriculture an affidavit that they will not knowingly or intentionally import, export, buy, sell, transport, distribute, or propagate any plant or seeds of Coloratus variety of climbing euonymus, any variety of Japanese Honeysuckle, any variety of Sericea Lespedeza, or perilla mint beginning January 1, 2027, or the Compactus variety of Burning Bush or any variety of Callery Pear beginning January 1, 2029.

This provision is the same as HCS HB 60 (2025).

FEES COLLECTED BY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (Section 292.606)

The bill extends the authority of the Missouri Emergency Response Commission to collect fees from August 28, 2024, to August 28, 2031. It authorizes a one-time fee to be assessed, which is to be calculated based on filings due March 1, 2025, and is to be paid by November 1, 2025.

This provision is the same as HCS HB 70 (2025).

SOIL EROSION CONTROL FUND(Section 640.900)

The bill creates the "Soil Erosion Control Fund", which is to be used to better equip neighborhoods and communities to reduce sedimentation and erosion of creeks, streams, and waterways and to protect ecological integrity and environmental services provided by natural drainage channels that run in close proximity to residential areas. The bill specifies the types of projects that are eligible for the program.

To be eligible for a loan under this section, a homeowners' association must be incorporated as a nonprofit organization under Missouri law. The Department of Natural Resources must promulgate rules and regulations to govern the distribution of moneys from the fund. The distribution must also meet the following conditions:

- (1) The interest amount on loans may not exceed the Federal funds rate or 2%, whichever is greater;
- (2) The loan amount may not exceed 80% of the total cost of a project in a single fiscal year;
- (3) The repayment schedule may not exceed 10 years; and
- (4) A homeowners' association must pass an assessment to the homeowners before qualifying for a loan, as specified in the bill.

The Department must establish an application form for homeowners' associations to apply for loans that must, at a minimum, require homeowners' associations to certify their compliance with the requirements specified in the bill and provide any other information the Department deems necessary for its decision to award funds.

This provision is the same as HCS HB 1461 (2025).